

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, October 1, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Nelson, Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dick Buckler, Jake Heibel, Teresa Howard and James Swift.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; Ryan Vanderwest, Youth/Camps Program Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Doug Bellis moved, seconded Ashley Varner, to approve the minutes of September 3, 2015; motion carried 5-0.

RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE

Director Brian Loewe introduced Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager, who provided a report on activities of the Recreation Division. She introduced Mr. Ryan Vanderwest, the new Youth/Camps Program Coordinator for the Department. He gave a brief update on programs and activities of the section, including before-and-after school care, summer camps, Hollywood and Carver Recreation Centers and special events. Jessica's highlights included updates on:

- Youth basketball registration begins on November 1st.
- Indoor soccer registration is now open
- Improvements and enhancements at the St. Mary's Gymnastics Center
- Gymnastics Open House to be held on October 17th.
- Great start to school age care at nine locations this year
- 21st Century Grant / partnership with SMC Public Schools program at Carver Center
- Verbic Memorial Golf Tournaments rescheduled to Friday, October 23rd
- BMX/Hoppe donation to R&P scholarship fund
- Gateway to Gold event to be held on October 10th.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Brian Loewe provided an update on the status of several park and facility improvement projects.

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

- Construction is currently underway on this five mile section of trail which runs from MD Route 5 in Mechanicsville to MD Route 236 in new Market.
- Clearing, grubbing and installation of stormwater management, gravel, the base course of asphalt is ongoing.
- Additional signage will be placed along the right-of-way informing citizens that the trail is under construction and not open at this time.
- Staff has been busy addressing adjacent landowner concerns and questions.
- The project is approximately 60% complete at this time
- Anticipated opening in spring 2016

Three Notch Trail Phase VII

- This section is approx. four miles, from Wildewood to Hollywood.
- Concept plan project award is expected by January 1, 2016.
- The concept planning process will produce alternatives and recommendations for the trail alignment in the California (Wildewood) and Hollywood areas.
- Design and engineering work anticipated to begin after concept planning is complete.

Elms Beach Park Improvements

- A project to include master planning for improvements at Elms Beach Park was approved for FY2016.
- Design and engineering is programmed for FY2017 and construction of improvements is programmed in FY2018.
- Items needed at this waterfront park located on the Chesapeake Bay include items such as additional parking, public restrooms and picnic areas.
- The scope of work for the master plan will be developed later this fall.

Lancaster Park

- This project consists of constructing additional multi-purpose athletic fields, parking and an entrance road within John G. Lancaster Park at Willows Road.
- The solicitation was advertised in summer 2014; however, the procurement was cancelled as there was a significant variance between the engineer's estimate and the low bid.
- Additional construction funding was added to the project for FY2016 and it is anticipated the project will be rebid later this fall and a construction contract is anticipated to be awarded by March 1, 2016.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

- This project consists of updating the County's 2012 approved Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.
- The LPPRP serves as the County's five-year parks and recreation master plan, with natural resource protection and agriculture preservation components.
- A park planning consultant will be hired to work with County staff on the plan.
- The plan will be publicly presented to the R&P Board and citizens for input; then on to the Planning Commission and the CSMC for review and approval.
- The final plan is due to the State by 7/1/17

OTHER BUSINESS

Alcohol Consumption Permit - Director Loewe presented a request for an Alcohol Consumption Permit from the Optimist Club of the Seventh District for the "back-up date" of October 31 through November 1, 2015 for the annual Blessing of the Fleet weekend due to anticipated inclement weather (original permit approved May 7, 2015 for October 2-4, 2015). **Patrick Murphy moved, seconded by Doug Bellis, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Optimist Club of the Seventh District for the Blessing of the Fleet event.** The event was subsequently cancelled.

Kenny Dement Memorial Unveiling Ceremony – The unveiling ceremony for the Kenny Dement Memorial at baseball/softball field #3 at Chancellor's Run Regional Park is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Board members are invited to attend.

Patrick Murphy thanked the Parks Division staff for work on the announcer's booth at Fifth District Park.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on November 5, 2015.